

## STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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May 12, 2014

Via E-Mail

Ms. Amy D. Jackson-Grove Division Administrator Federal Highway Administration 628-2 Hebron Avenue, Suite 303 Glastonbury, CT 06033 Connecticut.FHWA@dot.gov

Dear Ms. Jackson-Grove:

Subject: State Project No. 172-427

Federal Highway Administration Project No. 000R(852) Wrong-Way Driving Countermeasures – District 2

REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CONCURRENCE

The Department of Transportation is undertaking a Wrong-Way Driving Countermeasures project in order to reduce the instances of drivers traveling the wrong way on limited access highways. This project will systematically install larger and more visible Do Not Enter, Wrong Way and associated signs and pavement markings at all of the limited access highway exit ramps in District 2 (157 locations) using Highway Safety Improvement Program funds. A location map is enclosed for your reference.

<u>Purpose:</u> The purpose of this project is to reduce the potential of a wrong way driver on the limited access highways and provide a consistent approach for signing and pavement markings at every exit ramp.

<u>Description</u>: This project involves the installation of signs and pavement markings within the existing Right of Way. Signing work will consist only of sheet aluminum signs installed on break-away posts and most signs will be installed in the location of existing signs. Signs will be placed a minimum of 1 foot from the edge of pavement and a maximum of 5 feet from the edge of pavement.

<u>Public Involvement Program:</u> The Department has sent a letter to the highest elected official and the Local Traffic Authority of each Town in the project and asked them to determine if they thought any public involvement would be necessary. None of the Officials requested a public hearing or public information meeting and due to the limited nature of impact of this project none were held. The Department has issued a press release about the project and will issue another press release before the start of construction.

Request for Categorical Exclusion: This project has been reviewed in accordance with the Amended Programmatic Agreement for Processing of Certain Categorical Exclusions between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), dated August 2012. Based upon this review, CTDOT has determined that an Individual Categorical Exclusion (CE) is required for this project. This project meets all of the requirements of an Automatic Categorical Exclusion with the exception of Item No. 11 "Water Resources" as outlined below:

11. Water Resources: A portion of the project takes place within a sole source aquifer in Stonington. As stated by the Office of Environmental Planning, projects of this magnitude typically do not have any adverse effects to the groundwater resources.

The locations are the Route 78 westbound exit ramp in Stonington, and I-95 Exits 92 and 93 northbound and southbound exit ramps in North Stonington.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation respectfully requests concurrence in our determination that this project be classified as a Categorical Exclusion. Should you have any questions or require any further information, please contact the Project Engineer, Mr. Colin Baummer, at telephone number (860) 594-2733.

Very truly yours,

Digitally signed by Charles S. Harlow, P.E. Date: 2014.05.12 Chelos & Ilda

Charles S. Harlow, P.E. Manager of Traffic Engineering Bureau of Engineering and Construction

Date:

Approved by:

Ms. Amy D. Jackson-Grove, Division Administrator

Federal Highway Administration